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PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Identical letters dated 16 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter dated 15 June 1997 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Abdul Rahim Ghafoorzai, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan (see annex), transmitting the text of the first declaration of the United Islamic and National Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan (UINFSA), dated 12 June 1997.

I would like to refer, in this context, to documents A/51/914-S/1997/424, dated 2 June 1997 and an earlier document, S/1997/347, dated 1 May 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex to which the text of the said declaration is appended circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. G. Ravan FARHÂDI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Identical letters dated 15 June 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to bring the following to your attention as well as to the notice of the members of the Security Council and other States members of the United Nations the following:

On 12 June 1997, the United Islamic and National Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan (UINFSA) issued its first declaration outlining essential concepts and major practical points with regard to the solution of the Afghan conflict.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan, for the first time since its establishment five years ago, is thus being given the mandate to take drastic and concrete measures for the promotion of the political peace process and the realization of democracy in the country.

The convening of the Grand Assembly (Loya Jirga), within the time-frame (six to nine months), will manifest a major step forward for all the Afghan people to determine their own political destiny.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan expects the United Nations to extend its full support to the process leading to the convening of the Grand Assembly (Loya Jirga), by assisting in the matter.

Further practical details on the assistance to be provided by the United Nations, however, will be communicated to you through the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan.

The cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference has also been sought in the matter, in accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Security Council on the situation in Afghanistan.

(Signed) Abdul Rahim GHAFOORZAI
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Islamic State of Afghanistan

APPENDIX

Declaration of the United Islamic and National Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan (UINFSA), dated 12 June 1997

For the purpose of consolidating the struggle of the people of Afghanistan against foreign aggression by way of further securing the national unity of the people of the country, aimed at putting an end to the foreign intervention,

In order to pave the way for the people of Afghanistan to exercise their right to self-determination,

With the goal of facilitating an early and complete return of peace and stability to the country by the immediate convening of sincere intra-Afghan dialogues conducive to the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement between the two conflicting sides in the Afghan war, under the auspices of the United Nations and of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC),

With an aim of preparing the ground for the emergence of an Afghanistan finding its rightful position with high credibility among the countries in the region and in the world, enjoying friendly relations on the basis of mutual respect and fruitful cooperation with the international family of nations, in particular its neighbours, and standing committed to joining the global struggle against terrorism and drug trafficking,

In order to ensure democracy and human rights for all Afghan men and women, irrespective of religious, racial, ethnic and/or linguistic differences, based upon the recognized principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other related internationally accepted covenants in line with the tenets of Islamic Law,

With the intention of ensuring the supreme objectives of the historical Afghan Jihad (struggle for freedom), to implement the Islamic Law, to defend the territorial integrity, national sovereignty, independence and national unity of Afghanistan, as well as its national, cultural and historical values and honours, and,

While seeking the blessings of Almighty God, the establishment of the United Islamic and National Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan (UINFSA), as the highest authoritative entity - while in firm support of the Islamic State of Afghanistan - is proclaimed.

The Front declares the following:

1. The Front (UINFSA) is a composition of the following parties:

   - The National Islamic Movement (Junbish-i-Milli) of Afghanistan,

   - The Islamic Unity (Hezb-i-Wahdat-i-Islami) of Afghanistan,

   - The Islamic Society (Jamiat-i-Islami) of Afghanistan,

...

- The Islamic Movement (Harakat-i-Islami) of Afghanistan,

- The National Islamic Front (Jabha-i-Nejat-i-Milli) of Afghanistan,

- The Islamic Party (Hezb-i-Islami) of Afghanistan

(all joined by Afghan associations and non-governmental councils, cultural institutions, technocrats, scholars, religious leaders and all national loyal citizens of the country committed to defending Afghanistan and the rights of its people against foreign aggression, intervention and interference and also determined to contribute positively to the national efforts aimed at restoration of peace and normalcy in Afghanistan),

2. The Front (UINFSA) invites all patriotic intellectual Afghan personalities as well as social, cultural and political institutions, to join the UINFSA forum to broaden its ranks and voice their support for inaugurating an era of peace and stability in Afghanistan.

3. The Front (UINFSA) calls upon the Taliban to take into serious account the sufferings and miseries of the innocent civilian population in Afghanistan resulting from the protracted imposed war and to declare their readiness through joining a genuine intra-Afghan dialogue aimed at achieving a negotiated settlement, rather than pursuing the dangerous option of continuing war in Afghanistan.

4. The Front (UINFSA) stresses the necessity of introducing substantive changes in the composition of the Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan required to further enhance the national unity of the country. The Government would thereby be entrusted to perform the following tasks:

(a) Implementation of the peace process in the country;

(b) Establishment of a provisional National Council, comprising scholars, national figures, clerics and technocrats residing within and outside Afghanistan to function as a provisional parliament pending the convening of a Grand Assembly (Loya Jirga);

(c) Drafting of a constitution, a legislation regulating political parties and an electoral law. The drafting will be a task undertaken by three independent expert commissions to be selected from among the members of the Provisional National Council;

(d) Convening of the Grand Assembly (Loya Jirga), with the cooperation of the United Nations and of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), within a period of six to nine months, which would, inter alia, set a date for general and free elections to take place in the country;

(e) Promoting a plan directed at the collection of arms as well as the setting up of a national army;

(f) Addressing immediately the present economic plight of the people.

*Note: UINFSA will promptly initiate negotiations with the Taliban aimed at achieving the aforesaid objectives, should they declare readiness to engage in a sincere and honest dialogue and agree on the formation of a broad-based transitional government.

5. The Front (UINFSA) requests the international community, and in particular the neighbouring Islamic countries, to support the national efforts in Afghanistan in search of an immediate, comprehensive and durable peace.

6. The Front (UINFSA), greatly supportive of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, headed by Dr. Norbert Holl, calls upon the United Nations to take a more responsive and bold stance on the cessation of foreign aggression, intervention and interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. This intervention is to be considered as the most outstanding factor in the continuation of the conflict and thereupon of the blatant violations of human rights particularly of women in Afghanistan.

7. The Front (UINFSA) calls upon the Government of Pakistan to renounce its hostile policy towards the Islamic State and the people of Afghanistan and to respond positively by expressing its readiness for direct negotiations dedicated to the establishment of fraternal relations with Afghanistan. The Government of Pakistan is expected to play a role in its part in the peace process and the cessation of hostilities in Afghanistan, instead of supporting one side of the conflict. The Front (UINFSA), in this context, reassures of the readiness by the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan
12 June 1997